

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

SENATE BILL 1012

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-1854 AND 15-1855, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Section 15-1854, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-1854. Private postsecondary education student financial
5 assistance program: private postsecondary education
6 student financial assistance fund: definition

7 A. A private postsecondary education student financial assistance
8 program is established. The commission shall develop, implement and
9 administer the program. A student who obtains an associate degree from a
10 community college district or from a community college under the jurisdiction
11 of an Indian tribe in this state that meets the same accreditation standards
12 as a community college district and who registers for enrollment as a
13 full-time student in a baccalaureate program at a private, nationally or
14 regionally accredited four year degree granting college or university
15 chartered in this state is eligible to submit an application to the
16 commission for participation in the program. The commission shall establish
17 eligibility criteria for the program including financial need and academic
18 merit, shall develop application forms, procedures and deadlines and shall
19 select qualifying students each year for participation in the program.
20 Participating students shall receive an award in an amount of up to two
21 thousand dollars annually for not to exceed two years and four thousand
22 dollars to be used to pay all or a portion of the tuition and fees charged at
23 the private, accredited four year college or university.

24 B. A private postsecondary education student financial assistance fund
25 is established consisting of legislative appropriations. The commission
26 shall administer the fund. Monies in the fund are exempt from the provisions
27 of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations. The commission
28 shall make awards for payment of tuition at eligible colleges or universities
29 to students who are selected to participate in the private postsecondary
30 education student financial assistance program pursuant to subsection A of
31 this section.

32 C. The commission shall develop a program evaluation procedure in
33 order to determine the effectiveness of the private postsecondary education
34 student financial assistance program in shifting students who would have
35 otherwise attended a public four year college or university to private four
36 year degree granting colleges or universities.

37 D. A student who fails to receive a baccalaureate degree within a
38 three year period of receipt of the program award shall reimburse the private
39 postsecondary education student financial assistance fund for all awards
40 received pursuant to subsection A of this section. **ON RECEIPT OF SUPPORTING**
DOCUMENTATION FROM THE STUDENT, FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN THE COMMISSION MAY
PROVIDE FOR EXTENSIONS OF THE THREE YEAR PERIOD TO OBTAIN A BACCALAUREATE
DEGREE.

E. For the purposes of this section, "community college district" means a community college district that is established pursuant to sections 15-1402 and 15-1403 and that is a political subdivision of this state.

Sec. 2. Section 15-1855, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-1855. Postsecondary education grant program; fund; program termination; definition

A. The commission on postsecondary education shall develop, implement and administer a postsecondary education grant program. The commission shall develop application forms, procedures and deadlines and shall select eligible students each year for participation in the postsecondary education grant program. The commission may establish partnerships with qualifying schools for the administration of the postsecondary education grant program. Participating full-time students shall receive a grant in an amount of two thousand dollars annually for a maximum of four calendar years to be used to pay all or a portion of the following:

1. The tuition charged at a qualifying school.
 2. The cost of books required for classes at a qualifying school.
 3. The fees charged at a qualifying school.

B. The amount of a grant awarded to a participating part-time student enrolled in at least six credit hours PER SEMESTER OR AT LEAST SIX CREDIT HOURS FOR ONE-HALF OF AN ACADEMIC YEAR shall be prorated in accordance with the part-time status of the student.

C. Employees of private postsecondary institutions and family members of employees of private postsecondary institutions are not eligible to receive a postsecondary education grant pursuant to this section if the employee or family member is eligible for tuition reimbursement or a tuition waiver as a benefit of employment.

D. A student who has a baccalaureate degree from ~~the qualifying school~~ ANY POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION is not eligible to receive postsecondary education grant monies pursuant to this section.

E. Students who provide satisfactory proof to the commission that the student has met each of the following criteria are eligible to submit an application for consideration by the commission for a grant under the postsecondary education grant program:

1. The student meets at least one of the following criteria:

(a) Has graduated from a public or private high school in this state.
(b) Has completed the equivalent of grade twelve in a home school

program.

(e) Has obtained a general equivalency diploma in this state.

(d) Is currently a resident of this state and has been a resident of state for at least the past twelve months.

(e) Is a member of the military service of the United States stationed in this state or the spouse or dependent of a member of the military service of the United States stationed in this state.

1. THE STUDENT EITHER:

1 (a) IS CURRENTLY A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE AND HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF
2 THIS STATE FOR AT LEAST THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS.

3 (b) IS A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES STATIONED
4 IN THIS STATE OR THE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT OF A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY SERVICE
5 OF THE UNITED STATES STATIONED IN THIS STATE.

6 2. The student has met the qualifications adopted by the commission.
7 The commission shall adopt minimum qualifications that are comparable to the
8 admissions standards established by the Arizona board of regents for Arizona
9 public universities.

10 3. The student registers for enrollment as a student in a baccalaureate program at a nationally or regionally accredited private postsecondary educational institution in this state that awards four year baccalaureate degrees.

11 4. The student has provided high school transcripts as proof of
12 graduation if the student has graduated from a public or private high school.
13 If high school records no longer exist for a student or after every reasonable effort has been made to obtain official records, the student may submit a letter certified by the high school from which the student graduated or the original high school diploma.

14 5. The student has completed and submitted a free application for
15 federal student aid.

16 6. The student is a citizen or legal resident of the United States or
17 is otherwise lawfully present in the United States.

18 7. IF THE STUDENT IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR MONIES FROM THE PRIVATE
19 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND ESTABLISHED BY
20 SECTION 15-1854, THE STUDENT SHALL APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE MONIES FROM THE
21 PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND BEFORE THE
22 STUDENT IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FROM THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
23 GRANT FUND ESTABLISHED BY THIS SECTION.

24 F. The postsecondary education grant fund is established consisting of
25 legislative appropriations. The commission shall administer the fund.
26 Monies in the fund are continuously appropriated and are exempt from the
27 provisions of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations. The
28 commission shall make awards for payment of tuition at qualifying schools to
29 students who are selected to participate in the postsecondary education grant
30 program pursuant to subsection A of this section.

31 G. If the amount of monies available for postsecondary education
32 grants in any fiscal year is insufficient to provide grants to all eligible
33 applicants, the commission shall award grants to eligible students in the
34 order in which the applications were received by the commission, except that
35 priority shall be given to qualifying students who received a grant in the
36 previous fiscal year and who are still in good academic standing at the same
37 qualifying school. The commission shall maintain a waiting list for all
38 other applicants.

1 H. A student who fails to receive a baccalaureate degree within a five
2 year period of receipt of the program award shall reimburse the postsecondary
3 education grant fund for all awards received pursuant to subsection A of this
4 section. **ON RECEIPT OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FROM THE STUDENT, FOR GOOD
5 CAUSE SHOWN THE COMMISSION MAY PROVIDE FOR EXTENSIONS OF THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD
6 TO OBTAIN A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE.**

7 I. The commission shall submit an annual report to the governor, the
8 president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives and the
9 joint legislative budget committee that includes a detailed description of
10 the amount of monies distributed under the postsecondary education grant
11 program during the previous fiscal year and that includes the total number of
12 qualified applicants for grants, the total number of grants awarded, the
13 qualifying schools attended by grant recipients and the total number of
14 qualified applicants who were placed on the waiting list. The commission
15 shall provide a copy of this report to the secretary of state and the
16 director of the Arizona state library, archives and public records.

17 J. If the commission is notified by a qualifying school that a student
18 who has received a postsecondary education grant is no longer in good
19 academic standing at the qualifying school, the commission shall immediately
20 discontinue the grant and the student shall reimburse the postsecondary
21 education grant fund for any unused portion or any unlawfully used portion of
22 a grant received pursuant to subsection A of this section.

23 K. The commission shall develop a marketing strategy that is designed
24 to provide information about the postsecondary education grant program to all
25 high school students in this state.

26 L. The program established by this section ends on July 1, 2016
27 pursuant to section 41-3102.

28 M. For the purposes of this section, "qualifying school" means a
29 nationally or regionally accredited private postsecondary educational
30 institution in this state that offers four year baccalaureate degrees.